Drugs for Athletes

*486. SHRIRAJU PARMAR: SHRIBHAGATRAM MANHAR: Will the Minister ofHEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a large number of drug stores/ chemists stock a number of performance enhancing drugs for athletes;

(b) if so, the number of such cases which have been reported, so far; and

(c) the action taken against the drug stores/chemists?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C. P. THAKUR): (a) to (c) Under the provisions of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, drug stores and chemists are allowed to stock and undertake sale of only those drugs that are approved for manufacture and/or sale in the country. Drugs are approved for sale taking into account their quality, safety, efficacy and rationality. Some of the drugs including amphetamines, narcotic analgesics, anabolic steroids, stimulant drugs, diuretics etc., which are used for the treatment of various medical conditions are also reported to be used by sports persons to enhance their performance, although this practice is prohibited by national and international sporting bodies. Almost all these are listed in Schedule X and Schedule H of the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules 1945 and such drugs can only be purchased against prescription from Registered Medical Practitioners. Hence there are no specific drugs which are stocked by chemists and drug stores that fall under the category of performance enhancing drugs for athletes.

No specific complaint has been received by the Drug Controller (India) about stocking and selling of any drug specifically for the purpose of enhancing the performance of sports persons.

State Drug Controllers have been advised to keep a watch on the sale of such performance enhancing drugs, details of which have been obtained from the Sports Authority of India, and to report any violations noted regarding their sales without prescriptions.

Irregularities in Implementation of RCH Programme

† *487. SHRI BRATIN SENGUPTA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether many cases of irregularities in the implementation of Reproductive and Child Health (RCH) Project have come to light;

(b) whether Government have conducted a high level inquiry in the episode and if not, the reasons therefor;

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.